

Appln. No. 09/766,972

Attorney Docket No. 10641-1969

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and reexamination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

Claims '1, 11, 16, 21, 23, and 24 are being amended. Accordingly, after entering this amendment, Claims 1, 4, 6-11, 13, 15-17, and 21-24 are pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 4, 5, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sato et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,334,252) in view of *Hesch* (U.S. Patent No. 6,561,562) and *Farmer et al* (U.S. Patent No. 4,973,511).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the energy efficient insulator includes *a first wall surface and a second wall surface* defining a gas-filled cavity, and that the gas-filled cavity *extends substantially completely along the first and second wall surfaces*. As stated by the Examiner, *Sato et al* and *Farmer et al* do not disclose an energy efficient insulator. Additionally, *Hesch* does not teach an energy efficient insulator including first and second wall surfaces defining a gas-filled cavity. *Hesch* discloses a plurality of panels 12 comprised of natural fibers, Styrofoam, or a hard plastic. (*Hesch*, col. 5, lines 47-66, Figure 1). However, the Styrofoam and other materials disclosed by *Hesch* do not include gas-filled cavities defined by a surface. Furthermore, even if the Styrofoam material disclosed by *Hesch* includes air-filled cavities, the cavities do not extend substantially completely along the insulator wall as recited in claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by *Hesch*.

Claims 4 and 10 depend from claim 1. Therefore, for the reasons discussed above, claims 1, 4, and 10 should be passed along to allowance.

The Examiner rejected Claims 6-9, 11, and 13, 15-17, and 21-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sato et al* in view of *Hesch*, *Farmer et al*, *Lisee* (U.S. Patent No. 5,173,148), and *Russell et al* (U.S. Patent No. 6,391,400).

Claim 21, the elements of which were not addressed in the above mentioned Office Action, recites that the first wall surface and the second wall surface are substantially parallel with each other. The cited references do not disclose or render obvious first and second wall surfaces defining a gas-filled cavity. More specifically,

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even if the Styrofoam material disclosed by *Hesch* includes air-filled cavities, the cavities do not include first and second walls parallel with each other defining a gas-filled cavity, as recited in claim 21. Therefore, claim 21 is not anticipated by *Hesch*.

Furthermore, claims 6, 9, and 21-22 depend from claim 1. Therefore, for the reasons discussed above, claims 1, 6, 9, and 21-22 should be passed along to allowance.

Claim 11 has been amended to recite that the energy efficient insulator includes *a first wall surface and a second wall surface defining an insulator gas-filled cavity, and that the insulator gas-filled cavity extends substantially completely along the first and second wall surfaces.* As stated by the Examiner, *Sato et al, Farmer et al, Lisec, and Russell et al* do not disclose an energy efficient insulator. Additionally, *Hesch* does not teach an energy efficient insulator including first and second wall surfaces defining an insulator gas-filled cavity. *Hesch* discloses a plurality of panels 12 comprised of natural fibers, Styrofoam, or a hard plastic. (*Hesch*, col. 5, lines 47-55, Figure 1). However, the Styrofoam and other materials disclosed by *Hesch* do not include gas-filled cavities defined by a surface. Furthermore, even if the Styrofoam material disclosed by *Hesch* includes air-filled cavities, the cavities do not extend substantially completely along the insulator wall as recited in claim 11. Therefore, claim 11 is not anticipated by *Hesch*.

Claim 23, the elements of which were not addressed in the above mentioned Office Action, recites that the first wall surface and the second wall surface are substantially parallel with each other. The cited references do not disclose or render obvious first and second wall surfaces defining a gas-filled cavity. More specifically, even if the Styrofoam material disclosed by *Hesch* includes air-filled cavities, the cavities do not include first and second walls parallel with each other defining a gas-filled cavity, as recited in claim 23. Therefore, claim 23 is not anticipated by *Hesch*.

Furthermore, claims 13, 15-17, and 23-24 depend from claim 11. Therefore, for the reasons discussed above, claims 11, 13, 15-17, and 23-24 should be passed along to allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this

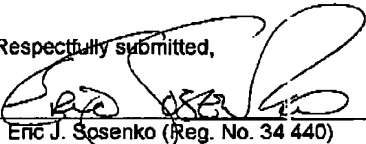
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application is now in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants request that the Examiner grant early allowance of these claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney for the Applicants via telephone number (734) 302-6000, if such communication would expedite this application.

November 17, 2004
Date

Respectfully submitted,


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